

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on March 21, 2008, Mr. John Siragusa requested an extension of time for 3 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 the required fee of \$590 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

in the claims:

claim 9, line 6 – added --portion-- after the second occurrence of “surface”, and,

line 7 – added --portion-- after the second occurrence of “surface”;

claim 23, line 5 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--,

line 9 – added --portion-- after the third occurrence of “surface”,

line 10 – added --portion-- after the second occurrence of “surface”,

and,

line 13 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--;

claim 24, line 2 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--, and,

line 3 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--;

claim 25, line 3 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--;

claim 26, line 2 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--, and,
line 3 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--;

claim 27, line 3 – replaced “tapered” with --laser--;

claim 28, line 4 – replaced “tapered” with --taper--;

claim 29, line 4 – replaced “tapered” with --taper--;

claim 30, line 4 – replaced “tapered” with --taper--; and,

claim 32, line 11 – added --portion-- after the first occurrence of “surface”, and,
line 12 – added --portion-- after the first occurrence of “surface”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernesto Garcia whose telephone number is 571-272-7083. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:30AM-6:00PM. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached at 571-272-7087.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/E. G./

Examiner, Art Unit 3679

March 27, 2008

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679